The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

Entered as second-class matter September 16, 1911, at the Postoffice at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 8, NO. 2. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1918. WHOLE NO. 366.

AMERICAN UNIONISTS VISIT ALLIED LANDS

Washington, April 6.—To make known to British and French workers the war attitude of American organized labor, a delegation of trade unionists, bearing credentials from the American Federation of Labor, has sailed for England and France.

The delegation, officially known as the "American Federation of Labor Mission," is composed of the following:

James Wilson, president Pattern Makers' League of North America, chairman; William H. Johnston, president International Association of Machinists; George L. Berry, president International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' union; Martin F. Ryan, president Brotherhood of Railway Carmen; John P. Frey, editor International Molders' Journal; Miss Agnes Nestor, vice-president Glove Workers' International union; William Short, president Washington state federation of labor; Miss Melinda Scott, president Straw Hat Trimmers and Operatives' union; Chester M. Wright, member International Typographical union.

The mission is in response to numerous invitations from British and French trade unionists to President Gompers to visit them, which the A. F. of L. executive finds impossible to accept at this time.

It is not the intention of the mission to give British and French workers advice, but to assure them of mutual interests and the necessity for complete victory without resorting to a patched up peace through conferences with workers of enemy countries.

RETIREMENT LAW IN SIGHT.

Kansas City, Mo., April 6.—A retirement law for superannuated federal employes seems to be reasonably within sight, says the Railway Post Office, official magazine of the Railway Mail association.

"The pensioning of soldiers," it is stated, "has little or nothing in common with the principle involved in superannuation retirement, but the superficial similarity has for years served to confuse the issue and delay action. Unfortunately, the word 'pension' has been used too much in connection with retirement. It is a word that creates prejudice, and nothing so effectively closes the mind against reason, investigation and growth as prejudice.

"Without the slightest investigation it has been the custom, in past years, of a certain type of politician to raise the cry of 'looting the treasury' upon the least reference to retiring aged government employes. Apparently it has never occurred to these watchdogs of the treasury that the cost of retirement is insignificant in comparison to the loss incurred by the government in retaining employes on the full pay roll many years after they have become incapacitated by age."

The Railway Post Office favors the McKellar proposal as a beginning. This plan is urged by Senator McKellar, and is semi-contributory, one-half being paid by the government and one-half by government employes, who will have deducted, at each pay day, 2½ per cent of their salary, but in no case shall the reductions exceed $50 a year.

PASS LIBERTY LOAN.

Washington, April 6.—Congress has authorized the treasury department to issue the third Liberty loan, which will bear 4 1-4 per cent, the rate for future bond issues during the war. The first two loans, which bear 3 and 3 1-2 per cent respectively, can be converted to 4 1-4 per cents. This means that the holder of a Liberty bond, first issue, which bears 3 per cent, or $3 a year for a $100 bond, will now receive 4 1-4 per cent, or $4.50 a year. The 3 1-2 per cents, which total $3.50 for a $100 bond, are increased to $4.25 a year.

Congress also authorized the secretary of the treasury to create a fund to buy up bonds when necessary. This will stop speculators throwing blocks of these bonds on the market in the hope of beating down the price that they may purchase more bonds, well knowing that the government will redeem these securities at their face value.

With the fund in operation, when a block of Liberty bonds is offered for sale, the secretary of the treasury will buy them, if he believes this course is necessary.

VIOLATE WOMEN'S LAW.

Hartford, Conn., April 6.—Certain employers in this state close their plants between 10 p. m. and midnight to evade the state law which prohibits the employment of women after 10 o'clock at night.

This condition has been revealed by Miss Charlotte Molyneaux Holloway of the state department of labor.

Munitions plants are extending their lunch and recreation rooms to assist in evading the law. The women are not allowed to leave the plants during the two idle hours.

At the last legislature organized labor attempted to amend the present law which makes 10 o'clock the limit for night work. This was opposed by manufacturers who now work their women until the prohibited hour, shut down for two hours the departments in which they are employed and again resume at midnight, thereby complying with the letter of the statute.

TIN WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Martins Ferry, Ohio, April 6.—Striking employes of the Laughlin tin mill have won a complete victory and have secured working conditions not granted in any other tin house in the country. These workers are members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

TRUST CONCERN BEATEN.

St. Louis, Mo., April 6.—Nearly 2,500 striking employes of the Ligget & Myers Tobacco company forced this subsidiary of the tobacco trust to reduce the work day from 10 to nine hours and advance wages 10 per cent. Most of the strikers are members of the Tobacco Workers' union.

GARMENT WORKERS GAIN.

Cumberland, Md., April 6. — The [illegible] Throwing company has settled differences with employes who suspended work several weeks ago. The United Garment Workers is recognized. Wages are increased 10 per cent and working conditions improved.

NAVY CHIEF PREDICTS WORLD-WIDE GOOD WILL

Washington, April 6.—Isaiah's prophecy that the people "shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" was outdone by Secretary of the Navy Daniels, last week, in an address before the National Geographic society.

The navy chief declared that all peace-loving nations must enter into an international agreement neither to throw away their guns nor to tie up their ships, but to make them the common international police on land and sea.

"We may not expect all nations to accept the tenders of world-wide brotherhood in the spirit in which it will be tendered by the twentieth century after-the-war chivalry," he said.

"This must be met by a high court of arbitration for the settlement of differences between nations great and small, and which can enforce its decrees so that no war lord will dare ever again to resort to the sword to impose his will or his country's greed upon other nations.

"These practical knights of peace and justice will master the secrets of earth and sea and sky for the comfort and improvement of the race. They will let no water power remain unharnessed. They will draw the nitrate from the air to enrich the earth. They will utilize present agencies of production so that plenty will bless mankind and unlock the secrets of nature to increase production faster than population makes demand for food and raiment and comforts—aye, and luxuries, also, for the best is none too good for all who labor.

"Discoveries now undreamed of will respond to the master touch of men of genius and we shall transport without loss from one continent to another the products and wares that will add to human happiness.

"Waste will be eliminated from pole to pole. Governments, instead of being required to spend billions on arms, will raise large sums for the creation of instrumentalities of education and research and scientific production until no man who labors will lack anything that will give nourishment or aid to his happiness.

"Chemists and workers in ordnance and in making munitions will be freed from making agencies of destruction so they may carry on experiments and operations to multiply all things that will sustain and make life more abundant instead of increasing the butchery of the race."

EXPLAIN RED CROSS FUNDS.

Washington, April 6.—Enemy propagandists are including the Red Cross, which is charged with using most of its funds for administrative work, said Congressman Wilson, who read a financial statement from Louis J. Hunter, deputy comptroller of the American Red Cross, that appropriations for relief activities up to date are $80,256,167.20.

Administrative expenses at headquarters and 14 division offices, including cost of membership campaigns, carrying on supply business, enlisting nurses, etc, $3,706,769.50. This means that less than 4 1-2 cents out of every dollar is spent for administrative expense and over 95 cents for relief.

"But it should be remembered," it is stated, "that in 'expenses' there are included such activities as enlisting nurses, doctors and other workers, and especially the considerable cost of conducting a supply business, which has transactions of $4,000,000 or $5,000,000 a month. Probably the actual overhead expense of management is less than 2 per cent."

It is shown that not one penny of this expense comes out of the contributions of citizens, but are met by the membership dues of affiliates to the national organization.

STRAIGHT TALK TO ANTIS.

Indianapolis, April 6.—At previous meetings of the local branch of the National Metal Trades association, speakers have thundered on the "tyranny of labor unions" and the glory of "free and independent workers."

This year Charles Piez, vice president and general manager of the United States emergency fleet corporation, made these anti-unionists squirm by his statement that "we can deal best with vast bodies of men through the established discipline of their organizations."

The speaker declared that the statement that high wages reduce rather than increase output "can not, in my opinion, be substantiated."

"The application of the eight-hour day," continued Mr. Piez, "is being very widely extended and my suggestion is that those employers who are still working on the 10-hour basis had better begin an immediate reduction of hours on straight time and adjust themselves promptly to the inevitable."

ORDNANCE WORKERS EXEMPT.

Washington, April 6.—All employes of plants commandeered by the United States ordnance department and all employes under agency contracts for the construction or operation of ordnance plants are exempt, by executive order, from the provisions of the civil service act, which provides for an educational examination of workers before they can secure employment in these departments.

The president has authorized employment in the United States government explosive plants of such persons as are best adapted to the work, in the judgment of those in charge, without reference to the civil service act and rules.

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Indianapolis, April 6.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report that the per capita tax paid to the A. F. of L. for the month of January shows a membership increase of 4,043 over the same month of last year.

The Keene, N. H., local of bookbinders has reduced the working week four and one-half hours and increased wages $2 to $6 a week.

BLACKSMITHS RAISE WAGES.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 6.— Striking blacksmiths employed at the Peninsula plant of the Wheeling Mold and Foundry company have secured a union-shop agreement and raised wages 5 cents an hour.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Memphis, Tenn., April 6.—Contractors have accepted the new wage scale of Electrical Workers union No. 374, which raises rates 56 cents a day.

EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS WOULD ELIMINATE STRIKES DURING WAR TIME

Washington, April 6.—The war labor conference board, consisting of representatives of organized labor, employers and the public, have agreed on a plan to eliminate war-time strikes, and have submitted the following report:

The commission of representatives of employers and workers, selected in accord with the suggestion of your letter of January 28, 1918, to aid in the formulation, in the present emergency, of a national labor program, present to you, as a result of their conferences, the following:

(a) That there be created, for the period of the war, a national war labor board of the same number and to be selected in the same manner and by the same agencies as the commission making this recommendation.

(b) That the functions and powers of the national board shall be as follows:

1. To bring about a settlement, by mediation and conciliation, of every controversy arising between employers and workers in the field of production necessary for the effective conduct of the war.

2. To do the same thing in similar controversies in other fields of national activity, delays and obstructions in which may, in the opinion of the national board, affect detrimentally such production.

3. To provide such machinery by direct appointment, or otherwise, for selection of committees or boards to sit in various parts of the country where controversies arise, to secure settlement by local mediation and conciliation.

4. To summon the parties to the controversy for hearing and action by the national board in case of failure to secure settlement by local mediation and conciliation.

(c) If the sincere and determined effort of the national board shall fail to bring about a voluntary settlement, and the members of the board shall be unable unanimously to agree upon a decision, then and in that case and only as a last resort, an umpire appointed in the manner provided in the next paragraph shall hear and finally decide the controversy under simple rules of procedure prescribed by the national board.

(d) The members of the national board shall choose the umpire by unanimous vote. Failing such choice, the name of the umpire shall be drawn by lot from a list of 10 suitable and disinterested persons to be nominated for the purpose by the president of the United States.

(e) The national board shall hold its regular meetings in the city of Washington, with power to meet at any other place convenient for the board and the occasion.

(f) The national board may alter its methods and practice in settlement of controversies hereunder, from time to time as experience may suggest.

(g) The national board shall refuse to take cognizance of a controversy between employer and workers in any field of industrial or other activity where there is by agreement or federal law a means of settlement which has not been invoked.

(h) The place of each member of the national board unavoidably detained from attending one or more of its sessions may be filled by a substitute to be named by such member as his regular substitute. The substitute shall have the [illegible]esentative character as his [illegible]

(i) The national [illegible]all have power to appoint [illegible] and to create such other [illegible]nization under it as may [illegible]udgment necessary for the [illegible] of its duties.

(j) The national b[illegible] apply to the secretary of lab[illegible]hority to use the machinery [illegible]partment in its work of concil[illegible]d mediation.

(k) The action of t[illegible]nal board may be invoked in [illegible] controversies within its ju[illegible], by the secretary of labor or [illegible] side in a controversy or its [illegible]uthorized representatives. The b[illegible]fter summary consideration, [illegible]fuse further hearing if the cas[illegible]ot of such character or importan[illegible] justify it.

(l) In the appointment[illegible]ommittees of its own members [illegible] for the board in general or loc[illegible]tters, and in the creation of loc[illegible]mmittees, the employers and the w[illegible]kers shall be equally represented.

(m) The representative[illegible] the public in the board shall pres[illegible]ternately at successive sessions of [illegible] board or as agreed upon.

(n) The board in its m[illegible]ting and conciliatory action, and the umpire in his consideration of a controversy, shall be governed by the following principles:

Right to Organize.

The right of workers to organize in trade unions and to bargain collectively, through chosen representatives, is recognized and affirmed. This right shall not be denied, abridged or interfered with by the employers in any manner whatsoever.

The right of employers to organize in associations of groups and to bargain collectively through chosen representatives, is recognized and affirmed. This right shall not be denied, abridged or interfered with by the workers in any manner whatsoever.

Employers should not discharge workers for membership in trade unions, nor for legitimate trade union activities.

The workers, in the exercise of their right to organize, shall not use coercive measures of any kind to induce persons to join their organizations, nor to induce employers to bargain or deal therewith.

Existing Conditions.

In establishments where the union shop exists the same shall continue and the union standards as to wages, hours of labor and other conditions of employment shall be maintained.

In establishments where union and non-union men and women now work together, and the employer meets only with employes or representatives engaged in said establishments, the continuance of such condition shall not be deemed a grievance. This declaration, however, is not intended in any manner to deny the right, or discourage the practice of the formation of labor unions, or the joining of the same by the workers in said establishments, as guaranteed in the last paragraph, nor to prevent the war labor board from urging, or any umpire from granting, under the machinery herein provided, improvement of their situation in the matter of wages, hours of labor, or other conditions, as shall be found desirable from time to time.

Established safeguards and regulations for the protection of the health and safety of workers shall not be relaxed.

Women in Industry.

If it shall become necessary to employ women on work ordinarily performed by men, they must be allowed equal pay for equal work and must not be allotted tasks disproportionate to their strength.

Hours of Labor.

The basic eight hour day is recognized as applying in all cases in which existing law requires it. In all other cases the question of hours of labor shall be settled with due regard to governmental necessities and the welfare, health and proper comfort of the workers.

Maximum Production.

The maximum production of all war industries should be maintained and methods of work and operation on the part of employers or workers which operate to delay or limit production, or which have a tendency to artificially increase the cost thereof, should be discouraged.

Mobilization of Labor.

For the purpose of mobilizing the labor supply with a view to its rapid and effective distribution, a permanent list of the number of skilled and other workers available in different parts of the nation shall be kept on file by the department of labor, the information to be constantly furnished:

1. By the trade unions.
2. By state employment bureaus and federal agencies of like character.
3. By the managers and operators of industrial establishments throughout the country.

These agencies should be given opportunity to aid in the distribution of labor, as necessity demands.

Custom of Localities.

In fixing wages, hours and conditions of labor regard should always be had to the labor standards, wage scales, and other conditions, prevailing in the localities affected.

The Living Wage.

The right of all workers, including common laborers, to a living wage is hereby declared.

In fixing wages, minimum rates of pay shall be established which will insure the subsistence of the worker and his family in health and reasonable comfort.

Essence of War-Time Industrial Peace Plan

The recommendations of the recently appointed war labor conference board marks a new era in the settlement of industrial disputes, in that the government is asked to adopt a policy that will officially recognize trade unionism by selecting only organized labor to represent all workers on the proposed national war labor board. Men who represent anti-union employers' associations, and who refuse to deal with organized labor in their private affairs, now agree that the American Federation of Labor represents the workers of this country.

The members of the war labor conference board are:

Presidents Hayes of the coal miners, Hutcheson of the carpenters, Johnston of the machinists, Rickert of the garment workers and Victor Olander, second vice-president of the seamen; five employers, representing 17 associated employers' organizations, and ex-President Taft and Frank P. Walsh, representing the public.

It is proposed that a national war labor board be created "of the same number and to be selected in the same manner and by the same agencies as the commission making these recommendations."

Where federal law has not been invoked, the new board will apply mediation and conciliation in the settlement of any dispute that affects war work or other controversy of national scope that hampers production. If these processes fail an umpire will be chosen by unanimous vote. On failure to agree on an umpire, one will be drawn from a list of 10 names furnished by the president of the United States.

Every principle urged by organized labor is accepted and the right to [illegible] is not denied, although it is believed the plan will eliminate [illegible] strikes, as it is declared that "there should be no strikes or [illegible] during the war."

Union[illegible] continue their membership campaigns and organize non-union [illegible] the machinery of the new board may be taken advantage [illegible]prove working conditions. A strike to enforce recognition [illegible]ion will not be considered a grievance.

While [illegible] that no union-recognition strike shall be called, the employer[illegible]d in any victimization policy, shall not lockout unionists or [illegible] a non-union shop, must permit employes to join unions, must [illegible]ing wage, must accept collective bargaining, must observe [illegible] laws, pay equal wages, regardless of sex, and must not relax [illegible]n of the workers' health and safety.

A living w[illegible]ned as rates "which will insure the subsistence of the worker [illegible]amily in health and reasonable comfort."

U. S. SHIPBUILDING BREAKS ALL RECORDS

New York, April 6.—While Americans have been regaled with stories of inefficiency and corruption in the building of ships, Edwin N. Hurley, chairman of the United States shipping board, showed the other side of the picture in a speech in this city.

"It took Germany 40 years to build up her military machine," he said. "In less than eight months we have built up a shipbuilding machine which, when it gets into full swing, will defeat the military machine of Germany."

He disclosed the fact that there soon will be 730 ship ways in this country upon which to build steel and wooden vessels, which will be 521 more ways than Sir Eric Geddes stated England has, and that the government's shipbuilding program was for 3,205,708 capacity tons on March 1, of which 28 per cent was completed. There actually had been put in service 655,456 tons, or 8 per cent of the vessels ordered.

"When we took hold of this job of shipbuilding," said Mr. Hurley, "we found there was no ship yard in existence with which we could place an order. The old yards, with their trained force of shipbuilders, were filled to capacity. Seventy per cent of their space was taken by the enlarged naval program. The remainder of the space was taken by American and foreign owners.

"We were faced with the necessity of creating an entirely new industry. We had to undertake a job that would have daunted any one but America."

The speaker said that the 37 steel ship yards in this country at the beginning of the war have been increased to 118, while 18 other yards have been expanded.

"We are building," he said, "in the new and expanded steel yards 235 new steel ship ways, or 26 more than at the present exist in all of the steel yards of England. The new industry we have created will make America the greatest maritime nation in the history of the world."

FOOD PROFITEERS WARNED.

Boston, April 6.—Food profiteers are again warned by State Food Administrator Endicott that he will invoke the law if they do not stop their illegal practices.

He says it is within the power of the food administration "to force the profiteers to disgorge and repay and restore their improper, unpatriotic and unlawful gains to those from whom they have been taken."

The food administrator intimates that the profiteers will be permitted to retain their "unlawful gains" if they don't do it again.

PROFIT IN MACHINERY.

New York, April 6.—Clear profits of the Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing company jumped from $2,902,[illegible] in 1916 to $5,678,945 last year. This means an increase on the preferred stock from $13.88 in 1916 to $21.74 in 1917.

CAN AVOID ACCIDENTS.

Vancouver, British Columbia, April 6.—The number of industrial accidents in British Columbia can be reduced, says Hugh D. Gilmore, member of the workmen's compensation board.

CIVIL RIGHTS GUARDED.

Washington, April 6.—The operation of the soldiers' and sailors' civil relief act is shown in a statement issued by Provost Marshal General Crowder.

"A soldier may owe money on a note," it is stated, "or he may have bought or leased lands or tools or furniture of which an installment is yet due, or he may have mortgaged his home and be liable to foreclosure for non-payment, or he may have carried life insurance and be unable to keep up premiums, or he may have a money claim and during his absence the lapse of time may raise a legal bar against suing for it when he returns, or he may be sued on some claim in his absence and may be unable to defend the suit, or in other ways he or his dependents may suffer undue hardship. Under any of these circumstances this plan should be followed: Let some one, on behalf of the soldier or sailor, notify the court that the party concerned is a soldier or sailor. Then the court will inquire into the merits of the case. The court has power to stay proceedings and may also appoint an attorney to represent the soldier or sailor.

"If a law suit has been begun against the soldier or sailor, give the notice above mentioned. If no law suit has yet begun, but a landlord or other person is preparing to sell or to take possession of property in which the soldier or sailor is interested, notify the court as above, and ask the court to summon the other party. All such persons are forbidden to take property in that way without first applying to court for an order."

MOONEY ASKS FOR PARDON.

San Francisco, April 6.—Thomas J. Mooney has asked Governor Stephens for a pardon from the sentence of death imposed in connection with the preparedness day bomb outrage last year.

This is the only remaining course for Mooney, as the state supreme court has refused to grant him a new trial, although the court was shown that perjury methods were employed by the prosecution. The state supreme court took the position that the trial was ended and the record of the case—which it alone acts on—was closed before the perjury charges were proven. In effect, the state supreme court holds that it will not go outside the record of a case, even though human life is endangered.

DON'T LIKE EIGHT HOURS.

New York, April 6.—Elbert H. Gary of the United States steel corporation says "we have given careful consideration to the eight-hour question and have decided against it."

Mr. Gary does not appear to keep informed on social progress, for he says "it is rumored that some employers of labor have been discussing adoption of the eight-hour day."

Now this agitation will probably subside, since the steel trust head has "decided against it."

REZIN ORR SCHOOL.

Chicago, April 6.—The memory of the late Rezin Orr, treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Men, is perpetuated more fittingly than by carved granite—a public school in this city has been dedicated to him, and it will be known as the Rezin Orr school.

President Mahon of the amalgamated assisted in laying the corner stone of this temple of learning.

WEINBERG OUT ON BAIL.

San Francisco, April 6.—Israel Weinberg, defendant in the preparedness day bomb cases, has been released from jail on $15,000 bail after an imprisonment of one year and nine months.

Despite his recent prompt acquittal the prosecution has held him in jail on other charges in connection with the bomb throwing. Weinberg's attorneys secured an order from the state supreme court that Judge Dunne must pass upon the validity of the bail bonds. This court has been charged with using dilatory methods in this case, and to meet every objection, the attorneys deposited $15,000 in cash.

On leaving the jail, Weinberg said: "I have just one thing to say, and that is that the supreme court's decision has exactly the same application to Mrs. Mooney as it has to me, and justice demands that she be swiftly released. Furthermore, the supreme court has admitted that the crime with which we are charged was a single transaction, and if one of the defendants is admissible to bail, they all are; and if one is innocent, they all are. I am confident that this interpretation of the supreme court's ruling will prevail and in a very short time not only Rena Mooney, but Tom Mooney and Billings will be free."

EMPLOYER FORCES STRIKE.

Kansas City, Mo., April 6.—A general strike in this city followed the refusal of F. W. Porter, of the Laundry Owners' association, to mediate, conciliate or arbitrate a strike of laundry workers who were forced to suspend work because their wages cannot meet present living costs.

Porter's stand smacked so strongly of kaiserdom that the organized workers struck in sympathy. Trade unionists asked Porter and his defenders what kind of patriots are they when they reject the plea of President Wilson to avoid industrial strife at this time by resorting to mediation, conciliation and arbitration.

The attitude of these low-wage advocates was so unfair that federal mediators arranged a settlement of the dispute. All strikers are reinstated and a minimum wage of $9 a week established.

U. S. SEED FOR FARMERS.

Washington, April 6.—The house has voted $7,500,000 to be lent to farmers to purchase seed grain, if the president, after an investigation, decides this is necessary.

The bill, which was approved by a vote of 251 to 67, was opposed by eastern and southern congressmen, who were asked why congress can vote money to business men and not to farmers?

ORGANIZING WOMEN.

Tacoma, Wash., April 6.—Poor working conditions and low wages of women and children employed in furniture and wood working establishments in this city have attracted the attention of organized timber workers who are interesting the women in trade unionism.

MEMPHIS PAINTERS GAIN.

Memphis, Tenn., April 6.—Union painters and paper hangers have increased wages 2 1-2 cents an hour. The new rates are $5 and $5.20 a day respectively.

STANDARD OIL FLIRTS WITH AGREEMENT PLAN

New York, April 6.—The Standard Oil company of New Jersey is flirting with organized labor's theory of collective bargaining. Its plan provides for meetings between company officials and representatives of the employes. If a laborer, hardly able to speak the English language, feels that he has been wronged he may, it is stated, appeal personally even to the company's highest officials. Life insurance, pensions and sickness insurance is provided. An applicant for employment must submit to a physical examination that "he is not assigned to a job to which he may be unequal." The examination will also protect the insurance features, although this is not stated.

Last Monday, this plan was launched at a dinner held in the Standard Oil building, 26 Broadway, this city. "Among those present," as society writers would say, were representatives of workers employed in New Jersey plants, who were elected by secret ballot. Superintendent Kohler of the Bayonne refinery, was the first to speak for the workers. A. C. Bedford, chairman of the Standard oil board of directors, supported labor's claim that trade unionism is necessary.

"One difficulty with which the company has been confronted," said Mr. Bedford, "was that because of its tremendous growth, it had lost the immediate personal touch between the management and the workers."

Another indication that Standard oil officials are making social progress was the statement that "welfare work is not regarded in any sense as a substitute for fair wages."

The essential difference between Standard oil's plan and organized labor's is that the first "gives" and the latter "takes."

FOUNDRY EMPLOYES GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., April 6.—Secretary-Treasurer Bechtold, of the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employes, reports that during the past month locals have been organized in Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Marion, Ind.; Cincinnati, Ohio.; Hannibal, Mo.; Bremerton, Wash., and St. Louis, Mo. In the latter city the new local has increased its membership from 28 members to 600 in less than a month.

Foundry employes at the Ludlow Valve Manufacturing company, Troy, N. Y., have suspended work to secure a minimum wage of $3.00 a day. They now receive $2.80. About 160 unionists are affected.

WOULD BE ALL-UNION PARADE

Boston, April 6.—In arranging for a patriotic parade in this city, officers of the central labor union have been forced to abandon the proposed organized labor division. Employers complain that their workers refused to march in the various industries' divisions and notified them that they will fall in behind organized labor.

LAND VALUES INCREASE.

Lansing, Mich., April 6.—Land values in this state have increased more than 25 per cent in the last three years, according to a report by the federal bureau of crop estimates. The average price of farm land in the entire state in [illegible] was [illegible] an acre, and this year it is [illegible].

Unionism, Followed by Arbitration, Puts Packing Industry On 8 Hours

Chicago, April 6.—As the culmination of an organizing campaign among stock yards' workers started last June by the Chicago federation of labor, America's packing industry has been swept into the eight-hour column.

To avoid a strike the packers agreed to arbitration and Federal Judge Alschuler has just ruled that beginning May 5 next eight hours shall be the basic work day, to be completed as far as possible within a period of not more than nine consecutive hours. Double time shall be paid for Sunday and holiday work and time and one-quarter for overtime up to 10 hours, and time and one-half thereafter. Where plants operate on the three-shift system employes shall be allowed 20 minutes for lunch with pay.

Wages are increased as follows: For employes receiving 30 cents an hour and under, 4 1-2 cents increase; between 30 and 40 cents an hour, 4 cents increase; and 3 1-2 cents increase for those receiving over 40 cents an hour. Where women do the same work as men they shall be paid men's rates. These increases are to date back to January 14 last.

On May 5 next, when the eight-hour day becomes effective, the wage increases must be readjusted so that workers will receive the same wage as they did under the long work-day system.

In answer to the employers' claim that the packing industry is now on a 10-hour basis, Judge Alschuler said that 11, 12 and 13 hours are exceedingly common and "14 and 15 and even more hours daily for a number of days is not unusual, and S[illegible] work is very frequent."

The decision will affect over 100,0[illegible] workers employed in packing plants of Armour, Cudahy, Morris, Swift and Wilson in this city and plants operated by some of them in Chicago, Kansas City, Sioux City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, East St. Louis, Denver, Oklahoma City, St. Paul, Omaha and Fort Worth.

Arbitration hearings started last February. Prior to this the workers presented demands and the antagonistic attitude of the packers developed such a strike spirit among the workers that the government asked both sides to come to Washington to attempt to adjust differences.

Packers agreed to arbitrate, and almost immediately attempted to withdraw their signatures. They abandoned this position, however, when the workers answered, "Arbitrate or face a strike." It is hinted that Secretary of Labor Wilson expressed views on the packers' proposal that recalled the old days when he was an officer of the United Mine Workers.

"KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN," U. S. OFFICIALS PLEAD

Washington, April 6.—"Don't close the schools; use them to maximum capacity," says Secretary of the Interior Lane in approving a statement just issued by the bureau of education of his department, wherein is presented the government's need of the schools in war time. The statement says:

"The entire spirit of the administration in Washington is, and has been form the beginning, that the war should in no way be used as an excuse for giving the children of the country any less education, in quantity or quality, than they otherwise would have had. Both the present demands of the war emergency and the prospective demands of the necessary readjustments inevitably to follow emphasize the need of providing in full measure for the education of all the people."

As to the government's need of high school students, Secretaries Baker and Daniels point out that "the army and navy do not want, and cannot use, boys under 18 years of age, nor boys nor men of any age who are not strong and well developed physically. So far as the army and navy are concerned, there is nothing more important that the schools can do than to keep going at full capacity, and at the same time to emphasize in every possible way their work in physical education. High school boys will render the best service of which they are capable by remaining in school until completion of the high school course."

Regarding the need in industry, government officials maintain that no emergency exists which justifies any relaxation of the laws safeguarding the working conditions of our young people.

CO-OPS MAKE PROGRESS.

Springfield, Ill., April 6.—The establishment of a wholesale purchasing department by the Central States Co-operative society is a success, reports John H. Walker, president of the society and president of the Illinois state federation of labor.

"Reports from our wholesale purchasing representative," said Walker, "indicate that the wholesale department has saved a little over $600 after paying the salary and all expenses of the representative for the first month of the department's existence. The indications are that this amount will be doubled in the second month.

"This is an inspiration to every real co-operator. It proves that our movement is everything that has been claimed for it. Every co-operative store in Illinois and nearby states should buy at least their staple articles and as many of the other articles as they possibly can through the wholesale department."

LABOR TURNOVER LARGE.

Boston, April 6.—In its quarterly report, the Massachusetts bureau of statistics refers to the abnormally high rate of labor turnover. Attention is called to the statement that during a period of four months the Fore River Shipbuilding company hired over 5,000 employes in order to add 2,500 to its force, and that the eastern railroads, during a period of nine months, hired over one million new men, or about three men for each vacant position, this being about double the normal turnover. In some other lines of work even higher turnover rates were reported.

It is stated that in the textile industry employers are trying to standardize wages and working conditions that competition for employes may be reduced, thereby eliminating to some extent the floating labor in that industry.

POSTAL EMPLOYES GAIN.

Washington, April 6.—The house has approved wage increases of from 10 to 30 per cent to virtually all postal employes. The senate bill only calls for a flat increase of 15 per cent for the fiscal year, to apply to every employe from assistant postmasters down to janitors. As the high cost of living will continue after the present fiscal year, the postal employes show that if the senate bill is approved they will have to wage another fight. This can be avoided if the house bill, which calls for permanent increases over standards of a decade ago, are approved.

STREET CAR MEN OWN HOME.

Chicago, April 6.—Organized street car men in this city have dedicated a magnificent $400,000 building, the first to be owned by a local of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America. The dedication on Monday, April 1, was an event in the history of Chicago trade unionism and marks another advance by the amalgamated.

AWAKE IN CUMBERLAND.

Cumberland, Md., April 6.—Within the past year there have been [illegible] unions organized in the Cumberland district, which includes western Maryland and that part of West Virginia immediately adjacent to this city. Unionists are holding community mass meetings in various sections of the district and their continued agitation is producing results.

GERMAN SOCIAL GAINS STARTED BY OTHERS

New York, April 6.—Widely-heralded claims of Germany's "social progress" are shown to be false by Gustavus Myers who writes on the oppression of German farmers for the publicity department of the American alliance for labor and democracy.

Bismarck is credited with having in 1879 been the promoter of modern "social reform legislation." He made no secret in the fact, in his speech in the reichstag on February 24, 1881, that one of his strongest motives in pressing it was to serve and aggrandize the Hohenzollern dynasty. He sought to gild over Hohenzollern militarism by giving the Hohenzollerns the reputation of "conserving the people's welfare." But one real ulterior aim was to take steps to conserve human flesh so that it could be fitter for the military machine's needs. Another ulterior aim was to combat and undermine the rising democratic movement of that time. Frederick the Great saw in the woman only a soldier breeder, and in the male baby only a future Prussian grenadier. Similarly to this very day, German official reports on labor, health, housing, insurance, and related subjects consider the man not as a man but chiefly from the standpoint of his capacity as a recruit.

The procession of writers worshipping German "social reforms" paint Germany as the great originator. In point of fact Germany grabbed many of its ideals from other countries and in the cribbing robbed them of their humanitarianism. Testifying in 1912, Dr. Landers, of the chamber of agriculture at Halle, Germany, admitted that the idea of farm experiment institutes came from the United States, as likewise the idea of stations for the preservation of farms. As long ago as 1858 a farmers' convention at Centralia, Ill., advocated wholesale buying and selling agencies for farmers. Ideas in other fields were appropriated by Germany and were then claimed as distinctly German.

But other ideas established in other countries giving the farmer and the agricultural laborer full freedom of action and movement were let severely alone by the German government. It was willing enough to adopt any idea increasing production, but determined not to import anything that would interfere with the caste yoke or give the farmer initiative and independence. The German criminal code still prohibits agricultural workers the right to organize and strike. The German laws enforce the fullest espionage on all laborers, agricultural and others. Every person coming in and out of a rural community must register with the local representative of the government, giving the most minute particulars about his or her life history. Failure to do so is promptly reported to the police.

FOOD COSTS INCREASE.

Washington, April 6.—From January 15, 1917, to January 15, 1918, the price of food as a whole increased 25 per cent, says the federal bureau of labor statistics, in its Monthly Review, March issue.

All articles showed decided increases, with the exception of potatoes, which decreased 16 per cent. Corn meal shows the greatest price change, an increase of 77 per cent. Bacon increased 64 per cent, lard 53 per cent, pork chops 41 per cent, ham 42 per cent, milk 35 per cent, hens 29 per cent, butter 25 per cent, eggs 23 per cent, bread 19 per cent, sugar 18 per cent and flour 17 per cent.

From January, 1913, to January, 1918, corn meal increased 135 per cent, lard 114 per cent, potatoes 107 per cent, flour 100 per cent, bacon 91 per cent, pork chops 85 per cent, eggs 81 per cent, bread 66 per cent, sugar 62 per cents, hens 62 per cent and milk 51 per cent. Food as a whole advanced 62 per cent.

GOING BACK TO THE SEA.

Washington, April 6.—In a letter to United States Senator Owen, President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union says the workings of the seamen's law proves the claim of union seamen that this legislation would result in Americans returning to the sea.

It is stated that the number of American sailors on the Pacific has increased fom less than 1 per cent to over 10 per cent and on the Atlantic the increase has been from less than 10 per cent to more than 25 per cent.

FUR WORKERS RAISE WAGES.

Brooklyn, N. Y., April 6.—Fur workers employed in the Chapel Fresse plant have secured an average wage increase of 12 1-2 per cent. About 150 employes are affected.

St. Paul, Minn., April 6.—After a week's strike, organized fur workers employed by H. Harris and company have raised wages $1 to $5 a week.

WIRE MEN WANT MORE.

Bethlehem, Pa., April 6.—Electricians employed by the Bethlehem steel corporation are dissatisfied with wages that range from 25 to 37 cents an hour and are affiliating with the Electrical Workers' union.